

Road Commission No Sugar Daddy

Oakland Slighted In Road Funds

By JACKIE KLEIN
The Oakland County Road Commission is not in a financial position to play "big daddy" to all the communities in the county, and we can't perform miracles for half the cost," says Paul Van Roekel, the commission's highway engineer.

An increasing number of complaints from county taxpayers about the inadequacy of roads prompted a recent study which reveals that the prime cause of the problem is money — or its lack.

The problem stems from a formula developed in 1961 by a rural — dominated State Legislature, under which Oakland County receives

proportionately less gas and weight tax money than any other county in the state, he said.

Oakland gets a return of about 40 per cent of what it pays in road tax dollars to the state, while other counties receive anywhere from 44 to 278 per cent of the taxes they pay.

"Each county should get approximately 54 per cent of the gas-weight tax funds paid to the state," says Van Roekel. "On that basis, Oakland County lost about \$4 million in 1968. To lose one dollar in every four is too much."

VAN ROEKEL SAYS the 1970 census will probably help

considerably to make up some of the loss to cities and villages of the county, if formula changes are made.

Nearly all road commission income for maintenance and construction on the 2,475-mile county road system is the share of state-collected gas and weight tax.

"It is obvious that if the Oakland County Road Commission had received the amount of income over the past 15 years that the cities in Wayne

County have been receiving, our local road system would be in better condition today," Van Roekel says.

"Is it any wonder that we are receiving criticism from many quarters about our lack of service and unsatisfactory performance?" Van Roekel laments.

"Remember, any county over 53 per cent is, in effect, being subsidized and any county below 53 per cent is footing the bill," he explains. "Oakland

County is the lowest in the state and has lost millions to other parts of the state."

A NEW FORMULA has been devised by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and introduced into the State Legislature, but so far no action has been taken.

The board appropriated \$400,000 to the road commission in 1969-70 and nearly \$1 million in the 1970-71 budget for emergency matching funds and

revolving-fund road building projects.

Traffic accidents in the county, up 15 per cent in 1969 to 23,416, have been related to inadequacy of roads.

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners is considering suing the State Highway Dept. for inequities in gas and weight tax disbursements, but commissioners admit the proposal was suggested only in order to alert state officials of the immensity of the problem.

OCC Grads Doing Well

A recent follow-up study of a group of 322 Oakland Community College students who transferred to four of Michigan's state universities showed that although 40 per cent of the group studied had less than a "C" average (2.0) upon graduation from high school, 71 per cent are presently passing at the four-year universities. The group studied had a mean grade point average of 2.12 in the secondary schools, 2.69 at OCC, and 2.4 at the universities.

The successful performance at four-year institutions of 70

per cent of the 253 students not admissible to a state university prior to attending OCC (less than 2.5 grade point average) underscores the important role played by the community college in giving students a second chance through new approaches to education.

The academic performance of students who transfer to four-year colleges provides a significant clue to the effectiveness of their community college instructional program.

U-M Sets Area Extension Work

University of Michigan graduate courses in education, English literature, psychology, social work and speech will open this month in Oakland County communities of Berkeley, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Pontiac, and Southfield.

The U-M Extension Service said that all courses carry residence credit for students admitted to a U-M graduate unit. Other qualified students may elect courses for graduate extension credit.

For further information, call the Dearborn Center of the U-M Extension Service, which has administrative responsibility for the extension program in Oakland County. The telephone number is 271-2200, Ext. 230. Printed announcements are available on request.

MOST OF THE courses start the week of Sept. 21 and will meet for 150-minute sessions each week for 12 weeks. Registration may be made in the classroom preceding the opening session. Fees of \$35 per credit hour, or \$70 for each of the two-hour courses, must be paid by personal check or money order payable to the University of Michigan.

The schedule of courses and locations is as follows:

BERKLEY: Berkley Senior High School, 2325 Catalpa—"Attitudes and Social Behavior" (Psych. 455-468), Monday, 7 p.m.

BIRMINGHAM: Derby Junior High School, 1300 Derby Road, Troy—"Introduction to Educational Measurement" (Ed. 206-C557), Tuesday, 7 p.m.; "History of the Novel: The Novel to 1850" (Engl. 361-421), Thursday, 4:30 p.m.; "Psychology of Adolescence" (Psych. 455-558), Wednesday, 7 p.m.; and "study of speech disorders" (Speech 467-451), Wednesday, 4:30 p.m.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS: Bloomfield Hills High School, 4200 Andover Road—"Education of Children with Superior Abilities" (Ed. 206-C563), Monday, 4:30 p.m.

PONTIAC: "Teaching Elementary School Mathematics" (Ed. 206-D511), Wednesday, 7 p.m., Oakland School, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road; "Mental Health Programs" (Soc. Work 789-694), Thursday, September 17, 4 p.m., Oakland County Department of Social Welfare, 1200 North Telegraph Road.

SOUTHFIELD: Southfield High School, 3495 Lahser—"Teaching the Language Arts in the Elementary School" (Ed. 208-D468), Thursday, 7 p.m.; and "Learning and Memory" (Psych. 455-448), Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Marygrove Offering Landscape

A course in landscape design will be offered as part of a series of non-credit courses for adults starting at Marygrove College the week of September 15.

Taught by Jack Schwartz who holds bachelor and master of science degrees in horticulture from Michigan State University, the course will include house plants, lawns, trees, and gardens and how to nurture them through fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

Other courses include "How to Conduct a Meeting," "Basic English," "French Reading and Conversation," "Man and His Environment," "Reading Improvement," and "Evolutionary Philosophy and Its Effect on Contemporary Thought."

All courses will meet Monday or Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Fee is \$20 per course.

American consumers spent 25.5 per cent of their disposable income for food in 1969, compared with 20 per cent in 1959, according to New Holland Division of Sperry Rand.



BRIDGE

Beginners Classes every Wednesday beginning 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

Northland Auditorium, registration fee..\$100

BRIDGE

Duplicate Play every Wednesday, 1:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M., Northland Auditorium ... 50¢ per week.

BRIDGE



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NORTHWESTERN AT EIGHT MILE & GREENFIELD ROADS

The Stroller...
'Puttin' Up Time'

By W. W. EDGAR

Now that the tomatoes have ripened, the golden yellow corn has matured and the cucumbers and cabbage have grown their fullest, we come to what The Stroller fondly recalls as "Puttin' Up Time."

The younger generation that has become accustomed to purchasing all sorts of vegetables and tasty bits from the shelves of the supermarkets knows very little about "Puttin' Up Time," but it once was the favorite season of the year.

Back in the days of his youth, The Stroller well recalls that if there was thought of violence among the people our parents saw to it that we eased our anger and protests by engaging in such things as chopping cabbage and "stomping" sauerkraut.

NEVER DOES this season of the year come round that The Stroller doesn't suffer pangs of nostalgia and long again for the smell of boiling spices coming from the family kitchen.

One of the fondest memories The Stroller has of his mother is an unusual incident that happened during "puttin' up time," and the very thought of it brings many a chuckle when the family gathers.

At the time The Stroller was eking out his existence in the grease and muck of a machine shop and was just getting to that age when he entered the social whirl of the small town community.

He had gained membership in a young men's club and was looking forward to his first date with more interest than he had ever shown at a 24-inch motor lathe or even at stomping sauerkraut.

Confiding in his mother, she just smiled and said she'd do what she could — she'd have his only suit pressed and a nice clean shirt and that she'd see to it that The Stroller was ready for the eventual "first date."

It so happened it was at "puttin' up time" and when The Stroller left for work that morning his mother was well into the task of boiling tomatoes to make ketchup.

But when he returned home the scene was quite different and dramatic.

THERE, on the back porch, was his mother in tears, standing at the ironing board.

"I was pressing your pants," she sobbed, "and I smelled something wrong. It was the ketchup boiling over and I faced in to the stove and left the hot iron on your pant leg. It burned right through — and it's the only suit you've got. What in the world will you do?"

Attempting to calm her and explaining that the "date" may not have been too important, he went on to his bath and started cleaning up for supper.

Suddenly, he heard a bit of laughter.

"What happened?" he called down stairs.

And Mother answered —

"Everything's going to be all right for tonight. I got your pants fixed."

Without waiting for The Stroller to ask what she had done, Mother called up the stairs —

"I took a piece out of your vest and sewed it into your pants leg. You weren't wearing the vest anyway, and it won't look too bad."

It didn't either. So off The Stroller went on his first date wearing his vest in his pant leg.

No wonder "puttin' up time" always brings fond memories.

Nature Walks
Planned In
October

The park naturalists at Kensington Metropolitan Park near Milford and Stony Creek Metropolitan Park near Utica will conduct early Sunday morning Nature Walks open to the general public on October 4, 11 and 18.

The walks will begin at 7:00 a.m. at the Nature Centers of the two parks. These tours are designed for individuals and families rather than for organized groups.

On these walks the naturalists will explore the autumn aspects of the Nature Trails, including the fall color of tree foliage, the season's last wildflowers, the resident and migrating birds, and the preparations that wild animals make for the approaching winter season.

For additional information on the nature walks, persons may phone these Nature Centers, Kensington Metropolitan Park near Milford — Phone 685-2417 (Milford); and Stony Creek Metropolitan Park near Utica — Phone 781-4621 (Utica).

The current Metropark Guide Map and Nature Trail brochures on facilities at each park are available by contacting the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, 600 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48226 or phoning 961-5355.



JOHN V. V. BRYAN, 41, has been elected vice president of corporate development for the Bendix Corp. He had been vice president of international planning for Bendix International. Bryan has a bachelor of science degree from Yale University and a master of science degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Holland Show
Is Announced

The Hollandia Society of Detroit is organizing a Holland Show for Oct. 6, 8 p.m. in the Oak Park High School auditorium.

Noted Dutch artists such as Willy Alberti and daughter, Wilke, Fred Kapp, the Three Jacksons and Master of Ceremonies Jan Blaazer are on tap.